

# WHO ARE THE “CITIZEN PLAINTIFFS” IN THE FRANKLIN PARK AND WHITE STADIUM LEGAL COMPLAINT & WHAT IS IT?



***From left to right:*** Louis Elisa, Jon Ball, Carla-Lisa Caliga (“Caliga”), Derrick Evans, Dr. Jean McGuire, Beth Abelow, Jerrold Abelow, Melissa Hamel, Renee Stacey Welch, Rory Coffey and Karen Mauney-Brodek

***Not pictured:*** Jamie Cohen, John “Jeff” Cook, Pamela Jones, Arlene Mattison, Marjorie Greville, Beverly Merz, Daniel Moon, Rodney Singleton and Benajmin Taylor

Twenty individuals and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy are collectively a group of citizen advocates for Franklin Park's White Stadium who have submitted a legal complaint against the city of Boston, the Trustees of the George Robert White Charitable Trust and Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC regarding the proposed privatization of White Stadium. The group has requested from the court a preliminary injunction to protect Franklin Park from the unconstitutional privatization of White Stadium, in light of the planned demolition of one-half of the stadium bid, initially planned to be contracted in February 2024.

This group urges the City of Boston to reconsider its proposal, which is not endorsed by a single neighborhood or park group, and instead encourages the City to invest the already-identified \$50 Million of City taxpayer funds to restore and renovate Franklin Park's White Stadium for **all** Boston Public Schools students and the residents who use and love Franklin Park; not for the benefit of a for-profit entity.



**Beth and Jerrold Abelow:** Beth and Jerrold reside in Jamaica Plain. Beth is involved in the community with Burnett Street Garden and Park Inc. and is an active leader in CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park. Jerrold is an early childhood educator. They are both avid Franklin Park users year-round.

**Jon Ball:** Jon is a Jamaica Plain resident and former Fenway resident. He is a retired UMass Boston lecturer who currently writes for the Fenway News.



**Carla-Lisa Caliga (preferred name: Caliga):** Caliga is a life-long Boston resident, having lived in Roxbury, the South End and now Jamaica Plain. She is a registered nurse and is active in CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park, as well as many other community efforts. She is a parent of five BPS students, two of whom are currently in BPS High Schools.

**Rory Coffey:** Rory lives across the street from Franklin Park in Jamaica Plain. He is active in the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association, serves as a leader of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park, developed the website [Bostonheatmap.com](http://Bostonheatmap.com) and is a devoted father.





**Jamie Cohen:** Jamie is a resident of Jamaica Plain and is a member of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park.

**John “Jeff” R. Cook Jr.:** Jeff is a Brookline resident who serves on the Board of Directors of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and is the facilitator of the Trustees Collaborative for Parks & Open Space. Jeff was the founder of the Environmental Careers Organization, including its Diversity Initiative which introduced over 1,000 college and graduate students of color to environmental careers through paid internships, conferences, books and seminars. Alumni include USEPA Administrator Michael Reardon, environmental justice leader Mustafa Ali and Spelman College professor Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, among many others.



**Louis Elisa:** Louis is a Roxbury resident and has spent thousands of hours of his life raking leaves and doing maintenance in Franklin Park. A founding member of the Franklin Park Coalition in 1978, he is the President of the Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association, and holds degrees from Harvard Graduate School of Design in City and Regional Planning. Louis has served in multiple local, state, national and international leadership roles, including serving as a US representative to NATO, and served three governors, numerous mayors and a variety of elected officials in myriad ways.

**Derrick Christopher Evans:** Derrick is a longtime educator, historian and civil rights/ environmental justice leader in both Roxbury and his native Mississippi. A former researcher for the PBS “*Eyes on the Prize*” film series and former teacher at Roxbury’s Phillis Wheatley Middle School, he has also taught US civil rights and related social science and humanities courses at Roxbury Community College and Harvard University. Derrick co-founded the Epiphany School in Boston and remains a driving force behind Roxbury’s “Wakullah Street” initiative. Another PBS film, “*Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek*” follows the painful but inspiring story of



Derrick's 20-year fight to save his ancestral Mississippi community from racial and environmental harm before, during and after Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill. For his efforts in Mississippi and Roxbury, he was awarded the National Bob Moses Award for Community Education and Organizing.



**Melissa Hamel:** Melissa is a long-term Jamaica Plain resident, activist, artist and a leader of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park. She is an advocate of increasing dog park access in Boston.

**Pamela Jones:** Pamela is a resident of Mattapan and serves as Treasurer of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council. She walks Franklin Park five days a week.



**Arlene Mattison:** Arlene is a resident of Brookline and an Emerald Necklace Conservancy Park Advisor on behalf of the Brookline Greenspace Alliance. She is also a founding member of the Olmsted Tree Society and has been the President of the Brookline Greenspace Alliance since 2002.

**Karen Mauney-Brodek:** Karen lives on the "Roxbury Side" of Massachusetts Ave. She is the President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, serves on the board of the nationwide City Parks Alliance and is a member of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Special Commission.



**Marjorie Greville:** Margie is a Beacon Hill resident and serves on the Board of Directors for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. She is the Chair of the Justine Mee Liff Fund Committee of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and is a founding member of the Olmsted Tree Society supporting tree care throughout the Emerald Necklace. She has been active in Franklin Park advocacy since 2017.

**Dr. Jean McGuire:** Dr. McGuire needs no introduction: she is a longtime Roxbury resident and decades-long civil rights leader throughout Boston. In 1966, McGuire helped found the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunities, Inc. (METCO). In 1981, she became the first Black woman elected to the Boston School Committee where she served for 10 years. She has served as a board



member on various associations including the Boston Children's Museum, Community Change, Inc., Encampment for Citizenship, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus and the Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM).



**Beverly Merz:** Beverly resides in the South End and is a writer and community volunteer who believes in public space.

**Daniel K. Moon:** Dan is a Jamaica Plain resident and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. He is also the head of the Advisory Board at the Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc. and served as its Executive Director from 1973 to 2016.

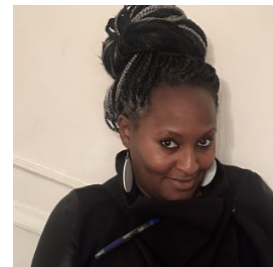


**Rodney Singleton:** Rodney is a resident of Roxbury and is a leader in the Highland Park neighborhood. He has served on the Highland Park Neighborhood Coalition Steering Committee, and now serves as Co-

Chair for the Highland Park Project Review Committee for a variety of projects, including Bartlett Yard. He is a member

of the District 7 Advisory Council, an avid gardener and loves parks.

**Benjamin Taylor:** Ben is a Brookline resident and serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. He formerly served as President and Publisher of the Boston Globe, and has sat on the boards of organizations such as The Conversation and Discovering Justice.



**Renee Stacey Welch:** Renee is a longtime Jamaica Plain/Roxbury resident, and a founding member of CORES: Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park. She also serves on community on the board of directors of Lena Park CDC and acts as Council Chair for Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC).

Learn more at [www.emeraldnecklace.org/white-stadium](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/white-stadium).